

whereas JAO and JE (JTO in BSNL) belong to executive category. So there does not exist any anomaly in these two different categories of employees.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

Tension to IT sector employees

1655. SHRI THANGA TAMIL SELVAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS & INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the problems like depression, tension, stress etc. of the employees of IT sector;

(b) the steps taken by Government to help employees come out of such situations; and

(c) whether Government would bring a legislation with mandatory provision of providing corporate healthcare, counseling etc?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMED): (a) to (c) As per NASSCOM (National Association of Software and Service Companies), no such report/complaint have been received.

As per Ministry of Labour, IT and ITES (IT Enable Services) are covered under existing labour laws. With regards to the Information Technology sector, the State Government are the "Appropriate Governments" under most of the labour laws and are legally vested with the powers to deal with the violation of the labour laws including the welfare measures for the employee in IT sector. Central Labour Legislations like Industrial Dispute Act, 1947, — the Employees, State Insurance Act, 1948, Employees' Provident Fund & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952, Payment of Gratuity Act, 1972, Equal Remuneration Act, 1976, Maternity Benefit Act, 1962, Contract Labour (Regulation & Abolition) Act., 1970 etc. also apply to them subject to fulfillment of criteria specified in the respective Acts.

Broadband scheme

1656. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Broadband scheme offered by MTNL is drawing poor responses as compared to similar schemes offered by other service providers like Air Tel; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the scheme offered by MTNL is costlier to consumer and suffers from poor technology and gives poor performance in wet and cloudy season and does not even ensure customer satisfaction; and

(c) the steps Government are taking to improve technology and cost to the consumer?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir, The broadband scheme offered by MTNL is very popular. The scheme was announced in January, 2005 and as on 31-10-2006, about 3,44 lakh lines are already working MTNL is adding nearly 1000 customer per day on its broadband network. Seeing the growing demand, MTNL is procuring another 8 lakh lines on broadband equipments in the current year 2006-07.

(b) No, Sir. MTNL has got nearly 15 tariff plans for broadband customers to suite individual's requirement. The technology used is Asymmetrical Digital Subscriber Line (ADSL) 2+on landline, which is the state-of-the art technology. The service can be affected due to cable fault during monsoon but all efforts are made to rectify such faults on war footing.

(c) The following steps have been taken to improve technology and cost to the customers;

- * Improving its landline network by replacing paper core cable, rehabilitating the outdoor plants, decreasing loop length etc.
- * Revision of tariff from time to time to make them customer friendly for all segments of society.
- * It has been planned to introduce Worldwide Inter-Operability for Microwave Access (WIMAX) equipments, which is a wireless system for providing broadband service to the customer in remote areas as well as 3G mobile networks.